

Mineral Spotlight: Specular Hematite

Your car, refrigerator, silverware, and every iron-bearing product you own possibly came from hematite—the most significant iron ore on Earth. Hematite has several varieties, including specular hematite, which forms as masses of tiny scale-like crystals that shimmer when illuminated.

Key Facts:

- “Specular” alludes to the mirror-like property of this hematite variety
- The Lake Superior region is the world’s largest producer of hematite
- Mars owes its nickname, “the Red Planet,” to its abundance of hematite, which appears red in powdered form.

This feature was posted on the Dice Museum’s social media by Museum curator Chafer Jolman on 8/28/2023

